IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of customizing a rule-based application, the method comprising:

designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template, the customizable element being selected by an end-user;

compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset; ~~and~~

parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template; and

enabling customization of said rule-based application in a deployment environment.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said set comprises a ruleset.

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising customizing said customizable element.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a variable.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a rule.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a ruleset.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising designating a ruleset of said set as a customizable ruleset template.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising generating a customized ruleset from the customizable ruleset template.

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling customization in a development environment.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising re-editing a previously generated rule.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a new ruleset is generated from a customizable ruleset template, and a pre-existing customizable rule template is associated with said new ruleset and is unchanged.

14.   (Currently Amended) A system for customizing a rule-based application, the system comprising:
        means for designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template, the customizable element being selected by an end-user;
        means for compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset; ~~and~~
        means for parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template; and
        means for enabling customization of said rule-based application in a deployment environment.

15.   (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said set comprises a ruleset.

16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, further comprising means for customizing said <u>customizable</u> element.

18.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said <u>customizable</u> element comprises a variable.

19.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said <u>customizable</u> element comprises a rule.

20.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said <u>customizable</u> element comprises a ruleset.

21.   (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising means for designating a ruleset of said set as a customizable ruleset template.

22.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising means for generating a customized ruleset from said customizable ruleset template.

23.   (Cancelled)

24.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising means for enabling customization in a development environment.

25.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising means for re-editing a previously generated rule.

26.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising at least one of: a non-volatile medium, or a volatile medium for storing software instructions for customizing a rule-based application, which when executed by a processor perform the steps of:

designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template, the customizable element being selected by an end-user;

compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset;

storing said ruleset; ~~and~~

parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template; and

<u>enabling customization of said rule-based application in a deployment environment</u>.

27.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein said set comprises a ruleset.

28.   (Cancelled)

29.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein said instructions further performing the step of customizing said <u>customizable</u> element.

30.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein said instructions further performing the step of designating a ruleset of said set as a customizable ruleset template.

31.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein said instructions further performing the step of generating a customized ruleset from the customizable ruleset template.